

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/014572

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 A61F5/00 A61F2/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 264 700 B1 (KILCOYNE JOHN ET AL) 24 July 2001 (2001-07-24) the whole document	1-3, 5-12, 15-17
X	US 5 861 036 A (GODIN ET AL) 19 January 1999 (1999-01-19) the whole document	1-3,5, 10,16
X	US 6 254 642 B1 (TAYLOR THOMAS V) 3 July 2001 (2001-07-03) column 2, line 20 - line 61; figures 1A-1C,6A-6C column 6, line 20 - line 39 ----- -/-	1,4,5, 11,13, 14,16,17

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

20/04/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Newman, B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/014572

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 314 473 A (GODIN ET AL) 24 May 1994 (1994-05-24) column 1, line 10 - line 12 column 2, line 53 column 3, line 2 - line 4 -----	1,2,10
X	US 4 846 836 A (REICH ET AL) 11 July 1989 (1989-07-11) the whole document -----	1,5,10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/014572

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 18 - 24
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/014572

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6264700	B1	24-07-2001	AU 6131499 A WO 0012027 A1	21-03-2000 09-03-2000
US 5861036	A	19-01-1999	CH 688174 A5 AT 182064 T AU 689369 B2 AU 4632296 A BR 9607908 A CA 2218417 A1 CN 1179707 A ,C DE 69603264 D1 DE 69603264 T2 DK 817598 T3 EP 0817598 A1 ES 2135868 T3 WO 9629954 A1 JP 3258330 B2 JP 10507392 T	13-06-1997 15-07-1999 26-03-1998 16-10-1996 13-01-1998 03-10-1996 22-04-1998 19-08-1999 13-04-2000 24-01-2000 14-01-1998 01-11-1999 03-10-1996 18-02-2002 21-07-1998
US 6254642	B1	03-07-2001	US 2001020189 A1 US 2001020190 A1	06-09-2001 06-09-2001
US 5314473	A	24-05-1994	CH 680263 A5 AT 96640 T AU 629664 B2 AU 5936490 A CA 2035903 A1 WO 9101117 A1 DE 69004409 D1 DE 69004409 T2 DK 435983 T3 EP 0435983 A1 ES 2047337 T3 JP 4500769 T	31-07-1992 15-11-1993 08-10-1992 22-02-1991 21-01-1991 07-02-1991 09-12-1993 11-05-1994 28-03-1994 10-07-1991 16-02-1994 13-02-1992
US 4846836	A	11-07-1989	NONE	